

DTV

Digital Television

Tomorrow's TV Today!



Digital Television (DTV) is a new type of broadcasting that will transform your television viewing experience. That means better quality, more choices, and more control over your television.

Here's what you should know about DTV before you buy:

❑ **Compare DTV picture quality.** DTV comes in several levels of picture quality. The most common are: **High Definition Television (HDTV)**, **Enhanced Definition Television (EDTV)** and **Standard Definition Television (SDTV)**. HDTV is DTV at its finest. With HDTV, you can enjoy a true home theater experience. EDTV is a step up from basic television. SDTV is the basic display.

❑ **Compare screen types.** You have a choice in DTV screens. Today, the primary options are: **Cathode ray tube (CRT) screens**—traditional color television screens updated for digital; **Rear Projection TVs**—can create brilliant, wide angle pictures on ever-larger screens; **LCD screens**—are very thin and produce extremely clear pictures, but are currently expensive and limited in size; **Plasma screens**—create a bright, clear picture up to enormous sizes while remaining very thin.

❑ **Make sure you have all the DTV equipment you need.** DTV equipment can be purchased as an integrated set or as separate components. **"Integrated"** digital televisions have built-in tuners and a monitor to display the programming. If you buy a DTV **monitor** (without an integrated tuner), you will need a stand-alone tuner, cable set-top box, or satellite set-top box to watch DTV.



❑ **Ask what connectors you need to make sure your new DTV set works with your other electronic equipment (DVD player, digital video recorder (DVR), camcorder, VCR, computer, video games, and other equipment).** The electronic equipment you have now should work with your new DTV, but you may need new connectors. Make a list of what you have now and ask your retailer what you need to connect the components.

❑ **"Digital cable ready" (or "plug-and-play") televisions are also available.** These can be used to receive digital cable TV (and often HD over cable) without a separate set-top box. A CableCARD is needed to watch certain cable programming. These televisions do not work directly with satellite - you still need a set-top box to view satellite programming.

❑ **HDTV is not the same as DTV.** Not all DTV is HDTV. If you have an HDTV display, make sure to ask about HDTV-capable equipment and talk to your cable or satellite provider to verify you have the proper set-top box to view HDTV.

❑ **More DTV and HDTV programming is being offered every day.** For a list of available digital programming in your area, go to www.dtv.gov.

❑ **Your current TV will not be obsolete at the end of the transition to DTV.** Your current TV will work once the DTV transition is complete, but you must have a digital set-top converter box to receive broadcast signals or be connected to a cable or satellite service. This converter box, much like your cable box, will allow you to receive a picture and view multicast programming, but it won't be able to show high definition pictures. To experience the full benefits of DTV, you will need a digital television set.

For More Information

Visit the
Federal Communications
Commission's
DTV Web site at
www.dtv.gov

